

Hi my name is _____ and this is the 8th principle minute. With the adoption of the 8th Principle, our congregation committed to dismantle racism, beginning within our walls.

As the regressives in society rail against Critical Race Theory, without really understanding what it is, we are seeing an effort to bury who we are as a nation. This white-washing of history can have only one response; we must lift up those events of this nation's past that are being hidden, especially official actions against BIPOC groups.

This past week was an important anniversary in US history. December 29th is a date we should all remember. 131 years ago, in 1890, the US Army massacred well over 250 members of the Lakota nation at Wounded Knee Creek in what is now South Dakota. While this is the most well-known massacre, there are over 1500 documented military actions against native American groups with 71 Wikipedia pages devoted to specific massacres. At Wounded Knee, half of the dead were women and children. The army regiment involved was celebrated for their action, with 20 medals of honor issued. That is the same number issued for the entire 14 year war in Afghanistan.

The Remove the Stain Act was introduced in the Senate in 2019 and was reintroduced last year. This act would revoke those medals of honor. While it is likely that this bill will not make it out of committee, it is still worth reaching out to our senators and asking them to co-sponsor S.1073.

Together we will continue this journey toward spiritual wholeness, build a beloved community, educate ourselves and discuss what it means to develop a culture of being accountably anti-racist. We will continue to look at our own practices, identity, and stories with a new lens to dismantle the racism in ourselves and our institutions.